

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the last paragraph starting on page 27 and continuing on page 28 of the application to read as follows:

As noted hereinabove, the hinging action may be effected by a variety of design options which may be used alone or in any number of various combinations and sub-combinations. One of those options is the inner notch or recess as noted. Another option is the tapered outer wall 200. Still further, the back end 202 of the ferrule may be contoured as explained in the '963 patent, such as with a convex shape, as distinguished from the straight conical profile illustrated in Figs. 7 and 7A hereof. Using a convex contour with the ferrule back end 202 (or alternatively a contoured drive face 204 of the nut 182 or both) reduces galling and pull-up torque by more evenly distributing the reaction forces between the ferrule and the nut.

Those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that the contoured back end may take on many different shapes, such as for example are described in International patent application no. PCT/US00/34828 filed on December 20, 2000 for FERRULE WITH RELIEF TO REDUCE GALLING, and its corresponding United States patent application serial no. 09/469,549 filed on December 22, 1999 (~~pending issue~~) for FERRULE WITH RELIEF TO REDUCE GALLING now U.S. Patent Number 6,629,708, the entire disclosures of which are fully incorporated herein by reference. The teachings of these applications are not needed for an understanding and practice of the present invention, but rather provide additional alternative design configurations of a contoured back wall and other geometry considerations for the hinging operation, either for the rear ferrule of a two ferrule tube fitting, or a single ferrule tube fitting. The contoured back wall also facilitates a hinging action whereby the back end of the ferrule may be radially spaced from the tubing after pull-up as set forth hereinabove. Preventing contact between the ferrule back end and the tubing wall prevents a stress riser that could be susceptible to deleterious vibration effects.